

Appl. No.: 10/636,172

Amdt. Dated March 7, 2005

Response to Office Action Mailed September 7, 2004

REMARKS:

Amendment. The claim amendments presented above are made relative to the claims as originally filed in this application on August 7, 2003. It is noted that a Preliminary Amendment filed by facsimile on September 7, 2004, apparently was not received by the Examiner in time for entry and consideration in the Office action. Counsel for applicants have received no communication concerning entry or non-entry of the Preliminary Amendment. Therefore, applicants presume such Preliminary Amendment was not entered and accordingly present the amendments above relative to the original claims.

In the amendments above, Claims 1 and 3 have been cancelled. Claim 2 has been amended to be independent of any rejected base claim, to contain all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, and to address potential antecedent basis issues. Claims 4-9 have been amended and new claims 10-20 have been added to remove multiple dependency and to more clearly define the invention under U.S. rules. Applicant is also presenting an amendment of the Abstract to address the objection of the Examiner.

In light of the examiner's indication that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten to be independent of a rejected base claim, and of the amendment of the remaining claims so that all depend from the allowable claim 2, it is submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and that all rejections, objections, and requirements in the Office action have been met.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 50-0305, including any necessary fees under 37 CFR §1.136(a)(3) for a three-month extension of time, which is hereby requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to call the attorneys for Applicant(s) at the direct number (312) 845-3919 with any questions that arise in connection with this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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Date: March 7, 2005

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Certificate of Facsimile Transmission under 37 CFR § 1.8

Attorney Docket Number: 1714922

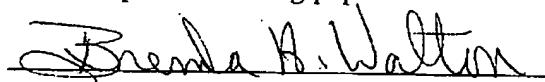
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Transmitted to Facsimile No.: (703) 872-9306

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence, namely Response to Office Action, was transmitted by facsimile on the date listed above to the U.S. Patent Office at the facsimile number listed above, under 37 CFR § 1.8.

Brenda A. Walton
Name of person sending paper


Signature

March 7, 2005
Date